

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06105 210909Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----012913 210926Z /13

O 210819Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5252

S E C R E T SEOUL 6105

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS, US

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF EM-9 PRISONERS

REF: SEOUL 6015

SUMMARY: SENIOR KOREANS ANTICIPATE CONTINUED RELEASE OF EM-9 PRISONERS BUT AT GRADUAL PACE, AND WITH SOME REQUIREMENT FOR "REPENTANCE." AMBASSADOR URGED LIBERAL INTERPRETATION OF "REPENTANCE" AND FASTER PACE, WITH INCLUSION OF KIM DAE JUNG. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-P'IL AND KCIA DIRECTOR KIM JAE-KYU OVER PAST TWO DAYS, BOTH GAVE ME CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT RELEASE OF EM-9 PRISONERS WOULD BE GRADUAL, PACED POSSIBLY OVER REST OF YEAR, WITH KIM DAE JUNG RELEASE STILL PROBLEM FOR ROKG. BOTH MADE CLEAR THEIR PLEASURE WITH AMNESTY PROGRAM BUT RECOGNITION THAT ULTIMATE DECISIONS RESTED WITH PRESIDENT PARK ALONE. KEY ADVISOR TO PARK ON THIS QUESTION IS KCIA DIRECTOR KIM, TO WHOM BOTH KIM CHONG-P'IL AND FOREIGN MINISTER PARK GAVE CONSIDERABLE CREDIT FOR CONVINCING PRESIDENT PARK TO MOVE IN THIS AREA.

2. KCIA DIRECTOR KIM SAID THAT PACE OF RELEASE OF EM-9

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SEOUL 06105 210909Z

PRISONERS WOULD DEPEND PRINCIPALLY ON PRISONERS' WILLINGNESS TO REPENT, WHICH HE DEFINED AS RECOGNITION THEY HAD VIOLATED LAW AND AGREEMENT NOT TO DO SO AGAIN IN FUTURE AFTER RELEASE. HE SAID WRITTEN STATEMENT WOULD BE SOUGHT, BUT SUGGESTED IT MIGHT NOT BE ABSOLUTE CONDITION. I THEN GAVE DIRECTOR KIM SERIES OF REASONS FOR MOVING MORE QUICKLY AND GIVING LIBERAL INTERPRETATION TO REQUIREMENT FOR "SIGNS OF REPENTANCE." I

POINTED TO BOTH EXTERNAL, PRINCIPALLY U.S., FACTORS AS WELL AS INTERNAL CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS PROVIDING VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OPPOSITION LEADER YI CHUL SUNG'S "GRADUAL" POLICIES. KIM LISTENED IMPASSIVELY BUT INDICATED AT CONCLUSION THAT CASE I HAD PRESENTED WAS SENSIBLE AND MERITED "CONSIDERATION." HE PARTICULARLY CITED FAVORABLE IMPACT IN U.S.

3. KIM CHONG-PIL COMMENTED THAT ACTION SO FAR WAS "GOOD START," BUT AGREED WITH MY URGING THAT MORE NEEDED TO BE DONE AND IN AS NEAR FUTURE AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT HANDLING OF KIM DAE JUNG REMAINS "DIFFICULT," BUT RECOGNIZED THE FAILURE TO RELEASE HIM WOULD CAST UNFAVORABLE SHADOW ON WHOLE AMNESTY PROGRAM.

4. KIM CHONG-PIL SAID THAT CURRENTLY HE IS TAKING VERY LOW POSTURE, BUT MAINTAINING HIS CONTACTS THROUGHOUT THE POLITICAL WORLD, INCLUDING THE OPPOSITION. HE HAD MET EARLIER THIS WEEK WITH YI CHUL SUNG AND OTHER TOP NDP LEADERS TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON THEIR ROLE IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND TO URGE CONTINUED ADHERENCE TO "GRADUALZ POLICY. KIM EXPECTS RELATIVE QUIESCENCE IN INTERNAL POLITICAL FRONT UNTIL NEXT SPRING WHEN PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTION WILL BEGIN. HE ANTICIPATES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE SOMETIME BETWEEN MARCH AND OCTOBER. HE DOES NOT EXPECT ANY CABINET CHANGES BEFORE END OF THIS YEAR AT LEAST.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SEOUL 06105 210909Z

5. KIM CHONG-PIL MADE CLEAR THAT HE IS KEEPING HIMSELF AVAILABLE TO PRESIDENT PARK SHOULD THE PRESIDENT NEED HIS RECOGNIZED POLITICAL SKILLS, BUT WILL NOT PLAY ACTIVE POLITICAL ROLE EXCEPT IF ASKED, ALTHOUGH MAINTAINING POLITICAL CONTACTS. HE HAS NOT SEEN PRESIDENT PARK IN RECENT MONTHS BUT IS PREPARED TO DO SO AGAIN IF CURRENT PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS HITS SERIOUS ROADBLOCK.

6. KIM CHONG-PIL MADE ONE OTHER INTERESTING COMMENT WITH RESPECT TO FORMER KCIA DIRECTOR KIM HYONG-WOOK. HE EXPECTS THAT KIM MAY IN THE END DO MORE DAMAGE TO KOREAN-JAPANESE RELATIONS THAN TO U.S.- KOREAN RELATIONS. KIM HYONG-WOOK INCIDENTALLY AT HIS INITIATIVE MET WITH KIM CHONG-PIL WHILE LATTER WAS IN PEBBLE BEACH ON WAY HOME FROM LATIN AMERICA. KIM HYONG-WOOK GAVE NO INDICATION AT THAT TIME OF HIS FUTURE ACTIVITIES. KIM CHONG-PIL BELIEVES THAT THERE IS NOTHING FOR ROKG TO DO BUT LET KIM HYONG-WOOK PROBLEM RUN ITS COURSE.

SNEIDER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL06105
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770259-0274
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770733/aaaabcdn.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6fdaea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 SEOUL 6015
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1789445
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELEASE OF EM-9 PRISONERS
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6fdaea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009